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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:	)		
J. Donald HILL <u>et al.</u>	)	Examiner	Not yet assigned
Application Number: 10/715,441	)	Group Art Unit	Not yet assigned
Filed: November 19, 2003	)		
For: CONDUIT COUPLING DEVICE AND )	)		
METHODS FOR EMPLOYING SUCH )	)		
DEVICES	)		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants are submitting herewith copies of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified) for consideration and to be made of record by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in the above-captioned patent application.

The attached documents were cited by the European Patent Office in the International Search Report dated March 22, 2004 of a counterpart application and relevance is indicated on the enclosed copy of the Search Report.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these references and that the Examiner indicate that the enclosed references have been considered in this application by returning a copy of the form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), Applicants believe that this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to issuance of a first Office Action on the merits.

Therefore, no fees are believed due as a result of this submission. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the PTO, please charge any such variance to undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

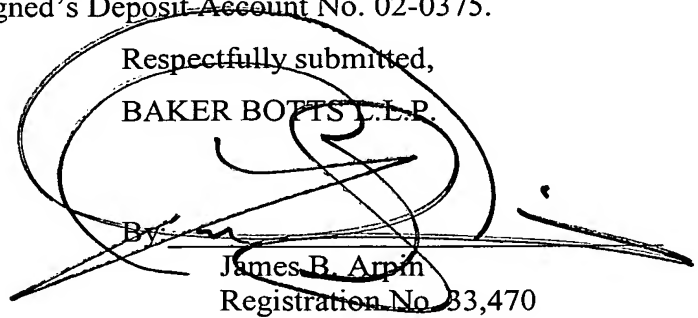
Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: May 14, 2004

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Enclosures

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FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) (REV. 7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 018880.0147		APPLICATION NO. 10/715,441	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT J. Donald Hill <u>et al.</u>			
				FILING DATE November 19, 2003		GROUP To be assigned	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		0	0	5	8	9	5	7	5/16/02	Farascioni			
		0	0	9	1	3	0	0	7/11/02	Peng <u>et al.</u>			
		4	5	7	3	4	5	2	3/4/86	Greenberg			
		4	8	1	7	5	8	7	4/4/89	Janese			
		6	1	4	2	9	3	5	11/7/00	Flom <u>et al.</u>			
		6	1	9	0	3	1	1	2/20/01	Glines <u>et al.</u>			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO
		WO	01	7	8	8	0	1	10/25/01	Europe			x	
		WO	00	2	4	3	3	9	5/4/00	Europe			x	
		WO	98	4	0	0	3	6	9/17/98	Europe			x	
		WO	01	4	1	6	5	3	6/14/01	Europe			x	
		WO	00	7	2	7	6	4	12/7/00	Europe			x	
		WO	02	0	5	8	5	91	8/1/02	Europe			x	
		WO	01	4	1	6	3	3	6/14/01	Europe			x	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	
	International Search Report, dated March 22, 2004

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.